IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A method for manufacturing a programmable logic controller (PLC) system, said method comprising:

providing a central processing unit (CPU) configured for a master PLC including a PLC module bus for coupling at least one PLC module to the CPU;

providing a means for wireless radio frequency communications between the PLC and a plurality of remote slave devices; and

operationally coupling the means for wireless radio frequency communications to the CPU by mounting the means and the CPU to a CPU card, the CPU card mounted on a backplane of a rack such that the means and the CPU communicate without using the PLC module bus.

2. (cancelled)

3. (original) A method according to claim 1 wherein providing a means for wireless radio frequency communications comprises providing a Bluetooth protocol transmitter/receiver.

4. (original) A method according to claim 1 wherein providing a means for wireless radio frequency communications comprises providing an IEEE 802.11 protocol transmitter/receiver.

5. (original) A method according to claim 1 wherein providing a means for wireless radio frequency communications comprises providing a cellular protocol transmitter/receiver.

6. (original) A method according to claim 1 wherein providing a CPU configured for a PLC comprises providing a CPU configured for a PLC comprising a Network Interface Unit.

7. (currently amended) A method for communicating, said method comprising:

providing a plurality of wireless communication devices;

sending wireless messages from the plurality of wireless communication devices to a programmable logic controller (PLC) having a central processing unit (CPU) and a PLC module bus for coupling at least one PLC module to the CPU; and

operationally coupling a means for wireless radio frequency communications to the CPU <u>by mounting the means and the CPU to a CPU card</u>, wherein the CPU <u>card</u> is mounted on a backplane of a rack, wherein the means for wireless radio frequency communications and the CPU communicate without using the PLC module bus.

8. (currently amended) A method according to claim 7 wherein said sending wireless messages comprises sending wireless messages from the plurality of wireless communication devices to the PLC~~, the CPU is coupled to the means for wireless radio frequency communications such that the CPU and the means for wireless radio frequency communications are both mounted on a CPU card~~.

9. (currently amended) A Programmable Logic Controller (PLC) comprising:

a backplane comprising at least one module connector and a module bus;

a central processing unit (CPU) card mounted on said backplane; [[and]]

<u>a CPU mounted on said CPU card; and</u>

a transmitter/receiver mounted on said CPU card, said transmitter/receiver operationally coupled to said CPU to communicate therebetween without using said module bus, wherein ~~said CPU is mounted on said backplane via said CPU card,~~ said PLC <u>is</u> configured to communicate with at least one controlled input/output module installed in a remote rack using said transmitter/receiver.

10. (previously presented) A PLC according to claim 9 wherein said CPU communicates with a module connected to said backplane via said at least one module connector and said module bus.

11. (original) A PLC according to claim 9 wherein the transmitter/receiver is a Bluetooth protocol transmitter/receiver.

12. (original) A PLC according to claim 9 wherein the transmitter/receiver is an IEEE 802.11 protocol transmitter/receiver.

13. (original) A PLC according to claim 9 wherein the transmitter/receiver is a cellular protocol transmitter/receiver.

14. (original) A PLC according to claim 9 wherein said PLC comprises a Network Interface Unit.

15. (currently amended) ~~An apparatus~~ A programmable logic controller (PLC) system comprising:

~~a processor;~~

a plurality of remote wireless devices;

an access point comprising a radio frequency receiver ~~operationally coupled to said processor;~~ and a radio frequency ~~transmitter operationally coupled to said processor, said transmitter is configured to send a wireless message to~~ transmitter; and

a programmable logic controller (PLC) ~~having~~ comprising:

a central processing unit (CPU) and a PLC module bus for coupling at least one PLC module to [[the]] said CPU; and

means for wireless radio frequency communications operationally coupled to [[the]] said CPU, wherein [[the]] said CPU is mounted on a backplane of ~~a rack~~ said PLC, ~~wherein the~~ said means and [[the]] said CPU are each configured to communicate without using [[the]] said PLC module bus, and said PLC is configured to communicate with said ~~processor and a~~ plurality of remote wireless devices via said access point.

16. (currently amended) ~~An apparatus~~ <u>A PLC system</u> according to claim 15 wherein said means for wireless radio frequency communications comprises a Bluetooth protocol means.

17. (currently amended) ~~An apparatus~~ <u>A PLC system</u> according to claim 15 wherein said means for wireless radio frequency communications comprises an IEEE 802.11 means.

18. (currently amended) ~~An apparatus~~ <u>A PLC system</u> according to claim 15 wherein means for wireless radio frequency communications comprises a cellular protocol means.

19. (currently amended) ~~An apparatus~~ <u>A PLC system</u> according to claim 15 wherein said PLC comprises a Network Interface Unit.

20. (currently amended) ~~An apparatus~~ <u>A PLC system</u> according to claim 15 wherein said CPU and said means for wireless radio frequency communications are mounted on a CPU card <u>coupled to said backplane</u>.

21. (canceled)